

Mount Vernon City Library



Welcome to the World of eBooks and eReaders, by Mike Bonacci and Anita Thornton, staff members



You've probably noticed that we joined the Washington Anytime Library consortium a few months ago. Perhaps you've already downloaded eBooks or eAudio Books through the Overdrive application. But did you know that MVCL received a grant from the Washington State Library for an eBook Reader Pilot Project?

Part of the library's mission is to promote lifelong learning and to provide a variety of materials in multiple formats. To meet this need, library staff need to understand the basics behind the most popular eBook readers so that we can assist our patrons as they seek to download eBook materials available at the library. The eBook Reader Pilot Project, supported with Library Services and Technology Act funding provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as additional funding from the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library, is helping the library staff learn how to use a variety of eReaders and download titles to a computer, reader or smart phone.

As part of the eBook Reader Pilot Project, the library purchased two Kindles, two Nooks, and an iPad. One of the requirements of the grant is for selected staff members to become "eReader experts" and to train others to become proficient on that eReader while gaining comfort on the assigned eReader. The skills we want staff to learn and comfortably share with patrons (and other staff members) include: (1) Connecting their device to a wireless network; (2) Navigating the menus on their devices; (3) Accessing the features of their devices, such as searching, highlighting and bookmarking; (4) Downloading materials from their bookseller (Amazon, B&N, etc.); and (5) Sideloaded materials from outside sources.

Staff members began practicing with the devices and wrote down tips and instructions for each device. We anticipate that most questions about how to download eBooks and how to use eReaders will be handled by the Reference and Circulation Desk staff. We have developed handouts to assist our patrons with navigating the initial registration and downloading process, and these handouts also outline the step-by-step process of browsing, downloading and transferring materials to computers, eReaders and smart phones. These handouts are available at the front desk and are online as well.

We presented an overview of eReaders and the Washington Anytime Library application to a group of Skagit County librarians at Skagit Valley College in September, and we'll provide a follow-up presentation in January. We also presented a program at the library for patrons who might be interested in purchasing an eReader, and will follow up on this in January or February as well.

We invite patrons to utilize the library's expanded access to audiobooks and eBooks from Overdrive. Library card holders can check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting <http://anytime.lib.overdrive.com>.

City of Mount Vernon

Volume 2, Issue 1

Jan-Mar 2012

Who supports the library?

- *You do, through City taxes*
- *The Friends of the Mount Vernon Library*
- *The Mount Vernon Library Foundation*
- *Individuals and organizations who believe in libraries, literacy and the quality of life in Mount Vernon.*

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Friends of the Mount Vernon Library, by Dave Johnson, Friends President

"Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius." - Pietro Aretino

With the holidays behind us and cold weather ahead, many of us warm our souls by the fireplace, perhaps an extra blanket, or gazing longingly through the 2012 seed catalogs as we wait for spring to get here with longer days, warmer sun, and the enticement of new, green growth. But Aretino, an early 16th century Italian artist, nailed it for those of us who love books and who love reading even more. Now is the time to indulge in books, and planning for the future, for ourselves as well as our gardens.

Your Friends group starts off the year with an annual meeting to elect new officers and to meet our new mayor, Jill Boudreau on January 17. All are welcome at the meeting and refreshments will be served. Join us! Please consider running for one of the Board leadership positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. We meet for about 90 minutes one evening in odd-numbered months (save July) and also work on the two book sales, our primary revenue source.

When you take a break from reading, why not cull **your** personal library and donate books you no longer need to the Friends so we can give them a new home and make some money to support **our** library?



Mount Vernon Library Foundation, by Harold Page, Foundation President

The Ground Floor

We've all heard the expression "He got in on the ground floor." It conjures images of Microsoft millionaires or extreme athletes who were among the first in their chosen pursuit. (I recently saw an article in the Skagit Valley Herald extolling the men who began the snowboarding craze at Mount Baker). These people are seen as trendsetters who lead the rest of us into the appreciation of that which we were previously unaware. Sometimes these "ground floor" people got there out of sheer luck and happenstance. But sometimes they got there because they have clarity of vision, that gift that allows one to see in the future what needs to be done now. (Steve Jobs comes to mind.)

There is a "ground floor" opportunity available for the right people right now. We need visionaries to help us on the Mount Vernon Library Foundation. With every month we gain steam and momentum, but we are still very much at the ground level. Participation will not make you wealthy but it will enrich your life and those of future generations who will benefit from the new library we will build for this wonderful city.

The "top floor" of this elevator ride will be a well-planned facility that will be a place of pride for all of Mount Vernon's citizens. There are numerous "floors" on the way up and lots to do. We need dreamers, communicators, schemers, and facilitators. We need you. Call or email the library if you have questions.

Mayor Boudreau at Friends of the Library Meeting

by Brian Soneda

Friends President Dave Johnson, in his column above, notes that the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library will meet on January 17, to elect officers and to spend some time with new Mount Vernon mayor, Jill Boudreau. The call to service is important, and I hope some of you take President Dave up on his invitation to run for a Friends officer position. Those of you who aren't willing or able to serve, but are interested in the future not just of the Mount Vernon City Library but in the future of the Mount Vernon community, please come to hear Mayor Boudreau speak and engage you in a dialog. Mark your calendar: **Tuesday, January 17, 6:30-7:30 PM**, here at the Mount Vernon City Library. Refreshments will be served.

Mayor Jill Boudreau



2012 January—March Library Events Calendar

(all programs are free and no sign up is required)

Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3	Tales for Tails (reading with certified therapy dogs), 1-2 pm, 6-12 years.
Jan 11, Feb 14, Mar 13	LEGO Building for All Ages, 1-7 pm.
Jan 11	How Do I Make My eReader Work?, 6:30-7:30 pm.
Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 8	Teen Writing Group, 5:30-7:30 pm.
Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 10	Science Saturday, 2-3 pm, ages 9-11.
Jan 17-Mar 6	Toddler Storytime, 10:30 am, 2-3 years, Tuesdays.
Jan 17-Mar 6	Bilingual Storytime, 6:30 pm, all ages, Tuesdays.
Jan 17	Friends of the Library meeting and Mayoral Meet 'n' Greet, 6:30-7:30 pm.
Jan 18-Mar 7	Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am, 3-5 years, Wednesdays.
Jan 19-Mar 8	Teddy Bear Time, 10:30 am, birth-24 months, Thursdays.
Jan 19-Mar 8	Travels with SKOOB, 4-4:30 pm, 6-8 years, Thursdays.
Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 15	Teen Advisory Board, 5-6 PM (<i>Jan 19 meeting at Value Village</i>)
Jan 21-Mar 10	Toddler Storytime, 10:30 am, 2-3 years, Saturdays.
Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 17	LEGO Building for All Ages, 1-4:30 pm.
Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 30	Teen Game Night, 6-8 pm.
Feb 7	State of the City, with Mayor Boudreau, 6:30 pm.
Feb 16	2 Weeks-3 Countries: Mother and Daughter Travels in Southeast Asia, 7-8 PM.
Mar 28	Zombie Project Runway, 5-7 pm (<i>at Burlington Public Library</i>)

The Redemptive Power of Reading, by Alberta Hendrickson, staff member

It's great when you can make a difference in your community. The Mount Vernon City Library has a new Juvenile Detention Center book talking program. Hoping to positively influence at-risk youth, I developed a program in which I visit the Skagit Valley Juvenile Detention Center once a month to talk about, and hand out, great books. The program is funded by a grant from the Margaret Alexander Edwards Foundation and by the Friends of the Mount Vernon City Library.

"I never read a book before I came in here [the detention center]," says one of the inmates. "Reading a book is like watching a movie."

By bringing the inmates books they want, as well as books which deliver powerful messages on positive change, I hope to make a difference. The inmates are allowed to keep the books, and take them when they leave. If you can get the right book to the right person, you can change a life. Not all of the titles are serious. *Calvin and Hobbes* and Michael Connelly books are in high demand, and so are popular young adult titles like *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins.

"These kids need laughter," one of the guards has said. "There's not much of it in here."

Books on tough subjects such as drugs, gangs, and serial killers are also very popular. Teens face tough issues, so many of the books brought into the center are about the power of redemption, such as *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman, about a sixteen-year-old boy named Brian, who travels around the country building Whirligigs in honor of a girl he killed in a drunk driving accident. In the course of his journey, Brian learns to forgive himself, and atone for what he has done.

It's important to make these kids laugh, but it's also important to make them think about how to change their situation for the better. Hopefully the books I provide will give hope to kids so they can do that.

Mount Vernon City Library

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“The Chain of Command”

The library director reports to the Mayor, Jill Boudreau.

The library director is advised by the Board of Trustees. Trustees are appointed by the Mayor and are confirmed by City Council. Trustees serve 5 year terms. Current Trustees are: Marija Anderson (Chair), Bill Craig (Vice Chair), Scott Correa (Secretary) and Sharon Sackett.

The library director and library staff serve you, the public.

2012 Library Hours

Monday	10 AM-5 PM
Tuesday	10 AM-8 PM
Wednesday	10 AM-8 PM
Thursday	10 AM-8 PM
Friday	10 AM-5 PM
Saturday	10 AM-5 PM

Holiday and other closures:

January 2	New Years Day observed
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 20	President's Day
May 28	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 3	Labor Day
November 12	Veteran's Day observed
November 22-23	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day

This newsletter is edited by: Brian Soneda, Library Director

Mount Vernon City Library

Vision Statement:

Mount Vernon City Library - The Heart of Our Thriving Community

Mission Statement:

Mount Vernon City Library promotes lifelong learning by providing access to information and materials that are varied in format and viewpoint. We connect our diverse community through innovative programming and excellent service.

Core Values:

Mount Vernon City Library stands on a foundation of core value including, but not limited to:

<i>Excellent customer service</i>	<i>Relevancy</i>
<i>Patience, understanding and caring</i>	<i>Tolerance</i>
<i>Community leadership</i>	<i>Sensitivity</i>
<i>Helpfulness</i>	<i>Welcoming spirit</i>
<i>Contributor to the community's quality of life</i>	

